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Women's League for the
Protection of Riverside...

Some plain facts about
Riverside Park

[New York]

[1916]

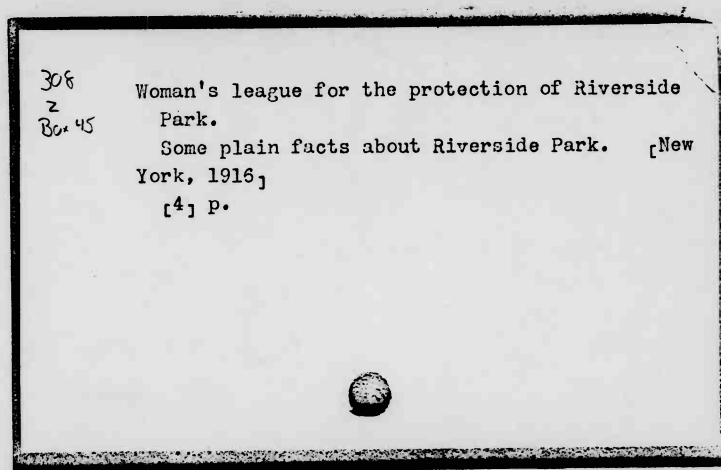
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Some plain facts about Riverside Park

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THE PRESIDENT
SOME PLAIN FACTS
ABOUT
RIVERSIDE PARK

WOMAN'S LEAGUE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF RIVERSIDE PARK

RIVERSIDE PARK was acquired by the city in 1868—it extends from 72d Street to 129th Street. In 1894 the area of the park was increased to include the land and the lands under water to the west of the railroad tracks. Beginning in 1892, repeated attempts have been made to *invade the park*—the culmination comes *now* in the plans under consideration by the Board of Estimate.

The city has four hundred miles of waterfront for *commercial purposes*, only five miles for *park purposes*. Do the citizens of New York wish to *give* this last five miles to the New York Central Railroad?

Do the citizens *know* that they will be *heavily taxed* to restore the park as far as that will be possible?

Riverside Park's assessed value is \$42,000,000. The New York Central Railroad Company is giving the city only \$300,000 for the restoration of the park, which will not pay for the destruction of 1,800 trees and 5,000 shrubs. Do the citizens want a *park*, or do they want a *freight yard*, with twenty tracks in the Seventies and the view of a *cattle runway* south of 72d Street, with its odors circulated through Riverside Park by huge ventilating shafts in the roof over the tracks?

How many know that for many blocks the roof over the tracks will be *thirty feet* higher than the roadway? How will this affect real estate values?

All recall the deserted villages throughout the city, caused by private greed or short-sighted business policy.

Why do the thirty-six tracks at 130th Street and the twenty tracks at 72d Street point *toward* one another if they are not intended to be joined at a future date, using the rock-filled portion of Riverside Park *west* of the present tracks for that purpose? How many citizens know that the district just below 72d Street has the *highest death rate* in New York? And that the *section lying*

between two parks has the lowest? These questions must be answered *now*, for the Board of Estimate will soon decide the fate of Riverside Park for all time.

REASONS WHY THE LEAGUE OPPOSES THE PRESENT PLANS

FIRST. Deprivation of the use of the park by the public for a period of from *six to ten years'* construction work. At 6 per cent. interest on the assessed valuation of the park, the use of the south end is worth more than \$1,000,000 a year, and the use of the whole park more than \$2,500,000 a year. This interest is *given* to the New York Central.

SECOND. Destruction of the park and the consequent destruction of real estate values.

THIRD. The city *gives* away in perpetuity vast sections of waterfront, from 59th Street northward to Spuyten Duyvil.

FOURTH. For many years, perhaps forever, the only means of access to Riverside Park west of the tracks will be by two ramps, each fifty feet wide, one at 79th Street, the other at 96th Street, both *commercial* approaches.

FIFTH. The alienating of the city's waterfront is in contravention to a policy established as far back as 1870, and is expressly forbidden by the Greater New York Charter.

TWO WAYS OUT OF THE DIFFICULTY

FIRST. Leave the tracks in their *present location*, sink them, roof them over, and *electrify* the entire railroad. This is the most practical and cheapest solution.

SECOND. Make a real *tunnel* under Riverside Drive.

The Woman's League for the Protection of Riverside Park

was organized May 16, 1916.

Mrs. Charles A. Bryan, President.

The object for which this league is formed is the protection of the territory included at this present time, 1916, in the area of Riverside Park, to keep it forever inviolate for the use of the public.

Other officers are: Mrs. James M. Stewart, Mrs. John Clapperton Kerr, Mrs. Arthur Melville Shrady, Mrs. John C. Coleman, Mrs. William R. Stewart.

Miss Georgie Wayne Day, Treasurer.

Miss Frances Peters, Corresponding Secretary.

Mrs. John Francis Yawger, Recording Secretary.

Executive Board: Mrs. Henry A. Wise Wood, Mrs. Charles H. Griffin, Mrs. Jacob W. Loeb, Miss Dorset, Mrs. Jean Dwight Franklin and Mrs. Stephen W. Coles.

**Our Riverside Park is a little bit of the
country brought to the city.**

**Will you not join the League and help us
to save it for our children and our children's
children?**

Dues (\$1.00) may be sent to

MISS GEORGIE WAYNE DAY,

Treasurer.

5 West 75th Street.

**END OF
TITLE**